

leadership, the University saw simultaneous annual enrollment increases and higher SAT scores of entering classes.

In addition, Dr. Freeman oversaw \$20 million in capital improvements to the Albany State campus, including a state-of-the-art student center, a learning center, and six residence halls. The positive impact of the construction reverberated throughout the student community, as well as in the surrounding city. The relationship between ASU and the Greater Albany area has been significantly strengthened, as the University's economic impact on the city reached \$156 million during Dr. Freeman's time as president. Dr. Freeman also worked to establish partnerships with several local businesses, further improving the town and gown relationship between Albany and ASU.

On a personal note, I am proud to call Dr. Freeman a friend and I am so grateful for all he has done for Albany State University and the Albany community. His heartfelt dedication to this school will be felt and remembered for years to come.

Nelson Henderson once said, "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit." Dr. Freeman has not only planted trees of knowledge whose fruit ASU students and alumni can yield, but he has also planted the seeds of success for future generations of Albany State University Golden Rams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Everett J. Freeman for his eight outstanding years as President of Albany State University. His energizing leadership and his commitment to academic excellence has helped to make lasting improvements to Albany State University so to better provide current and future students with the tools they need to lead successful and productive lives.

WILEY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EX- HIBITION DEBATE

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize and celebrate the Wiley College and University of Southern California debate teams on their Exhibition Debate. On October 25, 2013 the Wiley College and USC debate teams will reenact their historic debate of 1935.

The 1935 debate was depicted in the 2007 movie, "The Great Debaters," which Denzel Washington starred in and directed. "The Great Debaters" tells the story of Wiley's defeat of USC, the then reigning national forensics champion, under the direction of Professor Melvin B. Tolson. Following the release of the movie, Denzel Washington donated \$1 million to Wiley College to revive the debate team.

October 25th will not be the first meeting of the teams in recent years. In 2012, USC traveled to Wiley College in Texas' 1st Congressional District for an exhibition match with the great debaters at the Julius S. Scott Sr. Chapel. At the conclusion of the evening, both teams were declared victors and they com-

mitted to another match at USC. The Wiley College team also known as the Melvin B. Tolson/Denzel Washington Forensics Society, will be represented by Sophomore Lyle Keinman and Junior Nathan Leal along with team director, Christopher Medina.

Now ranked fourth in the nation, Wiley's debate team completed its 2012–2013 season of competition having amassed 82 national awards, 368 season-long awards, 16 championship trophies, and the first team title by a historically black college. The debate team is affiliated with Pi Kappa Delta, the National Forensics Association, and the American Forensics Association.

We commend both Wiley College and USC in their efforts on enhancing students' critical thinking skills through the medium of debate. We wish the best for both teams and look forward to have such a historical event re-enacted in the California 37th Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BRAD WILLIAMS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brad Williams who will be installed as the 2014 Chairman of the Board for the National Apartment Association on November 8, 2013.

As a native of Dallas, Texas, Mr. Williams is a graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in History, holds a Certificate of Real Estate from Southern Methodist University, and has received the Certified Property Manager designation from the Institute of Real Estate Management. He has over 40 years of experience in property management with Lincoln Property Company and is responsible for management of over 50,000 rental units throughout Texas and the Midwest.

Mr. Williams is the past President of the Apartment Association of Greater Dallas and the Texas Apartment Association. In addition, he has served as the Chairman of the National Apartment Association's Political Action Committee for the last three years and currently serves on the Executive Committee for the National Apartment Association. As Chairman of the Board, Mr. Williams will lead the National Apartment Association towards continued success as America's leading advocate for quality rental housing, serving the interests of rental housing owners, managers, developers and suppliers, and promoting a high level of professionalism in the rental housing industry to better serve the housing needs of the public.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Brad Williams as he guides the National Apartment Association this upcoming year as Chairman of the Board.

VETERAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE JOSEPH K. VRABEL

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joseph Vrabel. Joe served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Upon his return, he served his fellow veterans by joining the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1956, and soon thereafter, becoming Post Commander. His service continued as a Life Member of the American Legion Mahoning Valley Post 15, where he served five years as Post Commander, going on to serve as Mahoning County Commander of the Dynamic Ninth District; and then proceeding on to serve as the American Legion Department of Ohio Commander. Joe was an enthusiastic supporter of the American Legion's Buckeye Boys State, promoting the program whenever he could and securing local sponsorships which would allow the youth of this area to gain first-hand experience in state government. Joe was a significant supporter of the Gifts for the Yanks program which provided gifts for hospitalized veterans during the Christmas season. Joe was instrumental in obtaining a van to transport veterans from Youngstown to the Cleveland American Legion, where he served as Post 15 Sons of the American Legion Advisor for 15 years. In addition, he spent countless hours as a member of Mahoning Valley Post 15's Honor Guard and Color Guard, providing final military honors to his fellow veterans. Joe was locally known as the "Veteran's Veteran", for his dedicated work with veterans. As the owner of Hillcrest Tavern, Joe was able to support local youth sports teams, mainly golf, bowling, and softball in his hometown of Poland, Ohio. For his significant contributions to the veterans and youth of the Mahoning Valley, Joe is very worthy to be inducted, posthumously, into the 2013 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

HONORING SUNCOAST HIGH SCHOOL IN RIVIERA BEACH, FLORIDA ON CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN PRO- VIDING SECONDARY EDUCATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Suncoast High School in Riviera Beach, Florida on the occasion of its 25th anniversary as an institution of secondary education in Palm Beach County.

This remarkable school is perennially ranked as a top high school in America, as it offers a wealth of coursework in Math, Science and Engineering, Computer Science, International Baccalaureate studies, as well as Interactive Technology magnet programs. Children from across Palm Beach County seek admission to Suncoast for its acknowledged excellence in comprehensively educating students. The school has also become renowned in the community for the diligent attention that the faculty and staff offer to their students.